

## **Congressman Don Young Floor Speech on ANWR**

(As delivered on the House floor on October 4, 2017)

*“I thank you for including ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in the budget process. I’m looking forward to this – with this legislation we contribute money for solving some of our national debt. The small area of the 10-02 in ANWR is an area of 2,000 acres; smaller than Dulles International Airport. Potentially, we have a little over 20 Billion barrels of oil. Think about how much money that would bring to the U.S. Treasury immediately through the bidding process.”*

*“This is an issue I’ve been working on for the last 45 years. It’s time. We passed it once and it went to the Senate. President Clinton vetoed it because it wouldn’t help with an embargo we had at that time. Now is the time to make sure this nation is totally energy independent. It won’t happen overnight, but only Congress can do this. It’s not a Wilderness area. It was designated to be drilled at the request of Congress for the good of the nation. It will also reduce the debt. Again I said that I expect bids of about \$10 to \$20 billion just to have the right to drill. With new royalties coming down from the Secretary of Interior, we will not only have a large amount going into the U.S. Treasury, but we will have about 776,000 new jobs created by the discovery of this oil.*

*“We’ve already seen what we’ve able to do in other states by fracking and becoming more energy independent – and how it controls the OPEC nations. But this is the area where oil has been developed by God. It is only going to be available to the United States – it’s time the Congress steps forward and brings this to fruition for the people. Now we’ll hear a lot from the other side, from those interest groups that have no knowledge of the area I’m talking about. We’ll hear the caribou herd will be affected. It’s ironic, in Prudhoe Bay which produced 17 Billion barrels of oil – when we started there was 5,000 caribou. Now we have about 31,000 caribou. So oil didn’t disturb them.*

*“Oil is not evil. It is necessary for this nation socially– to create jobs, to make a healthier economy. So I’m asking my colleagues again to consider this legislation; it is necessary for this nation, it’s necessary very frankly for the good of this Congress. With \$20 trillion in debt, I’ve yet to hear anything that’s going to create new wealth. You can cut all you want to cut, I’ll cut what I want, but you have to create new wealth. You have to bring it into the fold of the general budget process and for the economy of this nation. Let’s not keep putting our heads in the sand and say ‘oh, we don’t need to do this, it’s not the time to do it.’ Now’s the time, for the good of the nation and because we’re in debt. Again Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to consider this in this budget.”*

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